

**QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL
September 19, 2013**

Present: David Lasky, Kent Crawford, Mike Schroeder

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

1. The Minutes of July 18 were approved by unanimous consent.
2. Fish & Boat Commission update from Dave: Rocky Powell talked to Diane Day of the F&B Commission and had a productive and helpful conversation – Rocky is poised to submit a grant application in the neighborhood of \$100,000 – we will receive further updates shortly. Kent agreed to help out where help is needed with the grant.
3. Affiliation with the Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance approved by unanimous consent.
4. Summary of tour of Pennsy Supply by Mike & Dave: Tour hosted by Jim DiScuillo, Millard Aggregates Manager, and Eric Snowadzky, East Area Aggregate Manager. Impressed with the operation, and the impact on the watershed appears to be minimal: 55 employees, top of pit 450' above sea level, lowest point 80' below sea level. Operation goes through 8 million (8,000,000) gallons of water per day, 90% of which is recycled through the system. Three discharge points into Killinger Creek – none into Quittie Creek. Particulates measured at 10 parts per million, well within the limits tested weekly by independent laboratory – effluent at the discharge point we saw (just downstream from the railroad bridge) looked clear & clean.
5. Summary of presentation before North Cornwall Township Supervisors (Mike & Dave): nice write-up in the *Lebanon Daily News*, Sept. 5, a good way to get the word out about the QWA's work and watershed issues. Consensus: we should schedule more such presentations.
6. LVC senior project: Mike summarized recent conversations with LVC economics seniors doing their senior project on the quantities of trash in the City of Lebanon's streets – Mike will serve as advisor – the end result will hopefully be a useful study quantifying the amount and types of trash washing into the headwaters of the watershed's mainstem.
7. Watershed Forum Saturday October 26, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon – Dave & Kent expressed interest in attending. Here's the info plucked from <http://lancasterwatersheds.org/>:

11th Annual Lancaster/Lebanon County Watershed Forum

October 26th from 9AM to noon at Acorn Farm Reception and Conference Ctr (Mount Joy) One of the most anticipated events of the year is upon us with the annual Watershed Forum. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever. Come join local volunteers, municipalities, teachers, students, and interested citizens as they learn about the local water resource concerns of both counties. This is a **FREE** event but registration is required. Participants not only get educated on a host of topics they also can browse through educational displays, get a **FREE** breakfast, and win countless door prizes. Mark it on your calendar now and make sure you register early. Please register by emailing [Matt Kofroth](mailto:Matt.Kofroth).

8. WIP (Watershed Implementation Plan) is now in the hands of Susan McDowell of the EPA – last communication was August 7 – Dave will be in touch to see where we are with the WIP approval process.
9. Kent discussed the Leaf Pack Network of the Stroud Water Research Center – <http://www.stroudcenter.org/lpn/> -- and identified high school science teacher Kim Klick as interested in working with the QWA and leaf pack studies.
10. Kent: Report as Stream Steward for the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited: accepted the position as Stream Steward and will be attending meetings when possible, including next Tuesday evening.
11. Discussion of Kent’s memorandum, “Ideas for Next Steps,” appended below, asking some excellent questions about where we are as an organization, which prompted a broader discussion that in turn suggested the need to develop a strategic plan to guide QWA efforts in the coming years.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Ideas for Next Steps
Quittapahilla Watershed Association
Kent Crawford
September 16, 2013

Programs

Charlie McGarrell – Charlie is a biologist who serves as the habitat specialist for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, South Central Region. About five years ago, he spearheaded a very successful habitat improvement project on Big Spring Creek in Cumberland County. This project added habitat structures in the stream to create riffles and pools and narrow the flow of water. The result was a large increase in the trout population of the stream.

The Quittapahilla Creek has some characteristics that are similar to the Big Spring Creek. For example, both streams are situated in limestone areas, both streams have cold spring water as their source, and both streams have low gradients.

I would like for the QWA to invite Charlie to present a program for our members on this success story for the Big Spring Creek and get his opinions for whether the same or similar technology would benefit the Quittie. As a bonus, the PaFBC has had good success in landing funding for habitat improvement projects. Maybe we could tap into those funding sources.

Matt Royer – Matt is the coordinator of the Conewago Creek Initiative. The Conewago Creek lies south of the Quittie and forms the county line between Dauphin and Lancaster Counties. The Initiative seeks

to “increase awareness and adoption of land management practices that will improve water quality of local streams and ensure healthy farms and communities.” The Conewago Creek is largely a rural watershed, dominated by forested and agricultural land. I think it might benefit us to learn about the Conewago Creek Initiative, what they have done, and how they acquired funding for their work. Let’s invite Matt Royer for a talk and a Q&A session with the QWA.

Program on MS4 – There is a lot of impervious area in the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed. Stormwater runoff is one of the threats to the Creek. Yet, I personally know little about stormwater control or how the municipalities in the Watershed have implemented stormwater control programs. I would like a presentation on the MS4 program and options for controlling storm water. Not sure who would be a good speaker for this program, but Mark Gutshall and the staff at Land Studies consulting firm have been successful in installing a number of stormwater-control projects in Lititz and elsewhere. Perhaps he could speak to our group. Other logical options for a speaker would be someone from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection or someone from the Lebanon Department of public works. Still another option for a speaker would be Dr. Robert Traver from Villanova University. He has been studying stormwater control for years and seems interested in passing his knowledge along to local groups.

Lamonte Garber -- The two biggest threats to Water Quality in the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed seem to be agricultural runoff and urban runoff. I do not have a knowledge base to know how to encourage land owners, farmers, and municipal officials to take action to protect the Creek. I think we should invite Lamonte Garber to talk with our group about how he has been so successful in implementing projects in Lancaster County. Mr. Garber works for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Membership

For volunteer organizations, it is normal that a few dedicated members take on most of the responsibility of running the organization. This seems to be the situation for the QWA. With our current leadership, the QWA has flourished. There seems to be an effective mix of talents among our leaders and there certainly is no lack of enthusiasm. This has been a great formula for success. Even so, the group should consider whether we need to try to expand our core group in order to spread the work load and increase the idea pool. On the other hand, the truism that “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” seems to apply here. I think we need a discussion about whether or not it is desirable to expand the QWA membership. If yes, then we could brainstorm strategies for increasing membership.

Projects

What projects are we planning to undertake? Do we have a prioritized list? Is there a strategy for seeking funding for those projects?

Visibility

Is it common knowledge that the QWA exists and is an active force for the Watershed? Do we need to “advertise” our work to raise awareness about our successes? How would we do this?

Coordination

What is our relationship with the Lebanon Valley Conservancy? How do we keep the Conservancy informed about our activities? Do we need to have an annual reporting mechanism to the Conservancy to let them know what we are up to and how much we appreciate their support?

What is our relationship with the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited (DFTU)? How do we keep the TU chapter informed about our activities? Do we need to have an annual reporting mechanism to the DFTU to let them know what we are up to and how much we appreciate their support?